

Hard work pays off at PEN Products

Media Contact:

Department of Correction

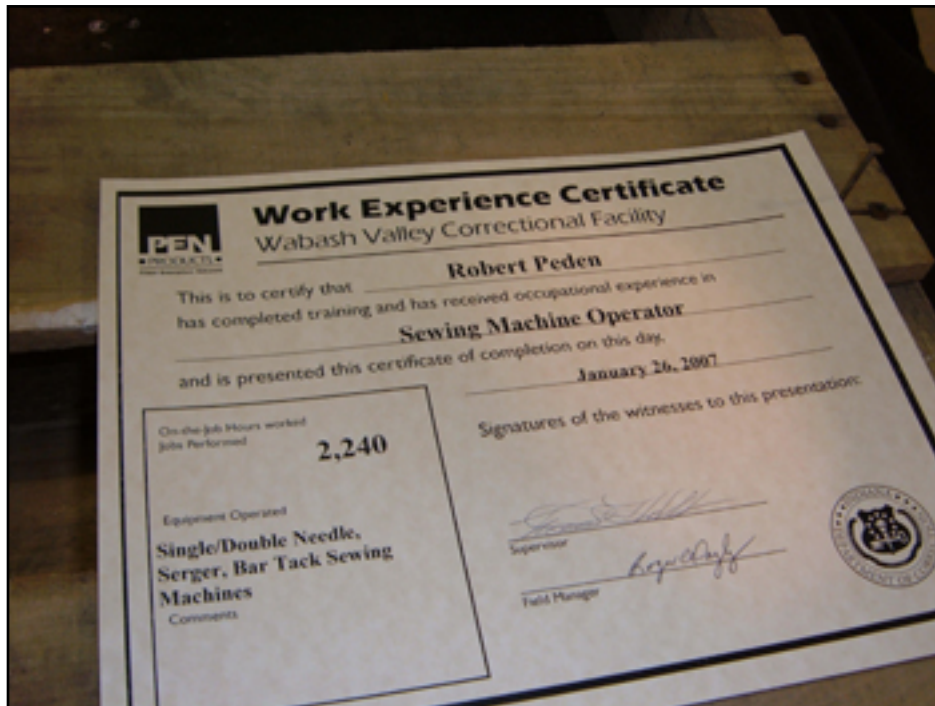
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"Offenders re-entering the community and the work force will have a verification of their work ethic and their work at PEN Products. Employers are looking for skilled workers. Offenders who can show their work history and job commitment have a better chance of finding employment. Employment remains a key element of successful re-entry."

Commissioner, J. David Donahue



Indianapolis, Indiana - (January 26, 2007) - PEN Products recently presented offenders with Work Certificates at both the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility and the Rockville Correctional Facility. Offenders qualify to receive a Work Certificate by working at least 1,000 hours in a PEN Products operation. Work Certificates provide the offender with documentation that can be presented to future employers after their release. The certificates are proof that the offender worked while incarcerated, learned new skills, used their time to be productive and verify the amount of time worked.

Commissioner J. David Donahue applauded PEN Products for recognizing the accomplishments of the offenders. "Offenders re-entering the community and the work force will have a verification of their

work ethic and their work at PEN Products. Employers are looking for skilled workers. Offenders who can show their work history and job commitment have a better chance of finding employment. Employment remains a key element of successful re-entry."

At the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, 135 offenders received certificates for working in the print shop, the joint venture wire harness shop and the joint venture sewing shop. Five offenders at the Rockville Correctional Facility were recognized for developing their work skills in the sewing shop which opened in June 2006.

Michael Herron, Director of PEN Products, added, " It is our goal this year that all of our facility work sites recognize the PEN workers and present Work Certificates that show a commitment to the job and their success in changing their lives."

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About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.